

First Named Inventor: Zine-Eddine Boutaghou

Application No.: 09/884,796

-5-

REMARKS**I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 102**

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Harada, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,276,573. Claim 1 is hereby canceled.

II. Summary of Examiner Interview

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted between the undersigned and the Examiner on July 29, 2003. Applicant discussed the application of the prior art to the claim, particularly with regard to the meaning of "air bearing surface," "first material and "second material," and "latitudinal" as used in the present application. Applicant also discussed potential amendments to the claims to determine if they would be permitted entry and overcome any remaining objection regarding the exact definition of existing claim terms. Applicant and the Examiner generally agreed that the proposed claim amendments would be entered, and no conclusion was reached as to whether the proposed claim amendments would overcome the prior art rejections of record.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103**A. Rejection In View of Harada and Tokuyama**

The Office Action rejected claims 2-3 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada in view of Tokuyama, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,886,856. Consistent with use of the term in the art, Applicants have defined "air bearing surface" to include a cross rail, side rails, and a center rail. Consistent with use of the term in the art, the air bearing surface does not include a cavity on a disc opposing face of a slider. (Application p. 7, lines 26-27). Contrary to the Office Action statements, the air bearing surface in Harada includes rails 6 but does not include "substantially recessed portion 21" at a rear portion of semiconductor insert 20. (Fig. 3; col. 7, lines 54-64). Therefore, Harada does not teach "a composite slider body with a front portion composed

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First Named Inventor: Zine-Eddine Boutaghou

Application No.: 09/884,796

-6-

of a first material and a rear portion composed of a second material different from the first material . . . where the air bearing surface comprises the front portion and the rear portion," as recited in claim 2. Tokuyama adds nothing to the teachings of Harada to render the subject matter of claim 2 unpatentable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 3 has been amended to clarify that the recited latitudinal plane is a "latitudinal plane with respect to the slider body." Such a latitudinal plane is described in the specification and figures; see, for example, interface 50 in FIGS. 5A and 5B. Harada does not teach or otherwise render obvious an interface of the first material and the second material as a latitudinal plane substantially perpendicular to the air bearing surface, as required by claim 3. Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 3 and are likewise allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

B. Rejection In View of Harada, Tokuyama and Chang

The Office Action rejected claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada in view of Tokuyama and further in view of Chang, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,385,011. Claims 4-8 depend from claim 3, which has been discussed with respect to Harada above. The Office Action states that "Chang discloses a slider in Fig. 3, wherein the thickness of the first material 204 is from 50 nm to 1,000 nm . . . and the thickness of the second material 104 is from 10 nm to 200 nm." (page 5, 1st paragraph) In fact, element 204 in Chang, shown in Fig. 8 but not in Fig. 3, is a thin film layer which provides no part of the disc opposing face and no part of the air bearing surface. Thin film layer 204 has no bearing on the present invention. Thus, even in combination, Harada and Chang do not teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious a slider in which an interface of the first material and the different second material comprises a latitudinal plane with respect to the slider body substantially perpendicular to the air bearing surface. Therefore, claims 4-7 are not obvious in view of Harada and Chang. With regard to claim 8, Tokuyama adds nothing to the teachings of Harada and Chang to render obvious the claim elements discussed above.

First Named Inventor: Zine-Eddine Boutaghou

Application No.: 09/884,796

-7-

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

C. Rejections In View of Harada and Tabuchi

The Office Action rejected claims 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada in view of Tabuchi. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the Harada and Tabuchi references is improper because there is no motivation or suggestion in the prior art for the combination. Because these references cannot be properly combined, claims 9-12 cannot be unpatentable in view of the combination. Moreover, neither Harada nor Tabuchi disclose or suggest the composite wafer manufacturing method of claim 9. The Office Action states that Harada teaches a "method comprising the steps of: forming a composite wafer comprising a plurality of joined slider bodies (See Fig. 13a)." (Page 7, last paragraph). However, Fig. 13a merely teaches the prior art method of forming a transducer basecoat on a single material wafer. Moreover, Tabuchi does not teach a method of forming a composite wafer comprising a plurality of joined slider bodies. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

D. Rejections In View of Harada, Tabuchi and Chang

The Office Action rejected claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada and Tabuchi and further in view of Chang, U.S. Patent No. 6,385,011. Claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 9, discussed with reference to Harada and Tabuchi above. The Chang disclosure has also been discussed above. Even in combination, Harada, Tabuchi and Chang do not teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious a method of manufacturing a slider body comprising the steps of forming a composite wafer comprising a layer of a first material and a layer of a second material, forming on the layer of second material a transducer basecoat portion containing a plurality of transducers, defining an air bearing surface on each slider body, and reciting

First Named Inventor: Zine-Eddine Boutaghou

Application No.: 09/884,796

-8-

relative thicknesses of the layers. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted in earnest to address each issue raised in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-16 are allowable and respectfully request notice to that effect. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (612) 337-9340 if a telephone conference may expedite the resolution of this case and facilitate the allowance of the pending claims.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

KINNEY & LANGE, P.A.

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